

Elizabeth Kaynor—has served tirelessly as the executive director for the City of Miami Commission on the Status of Women, and is the founding director for the Center for Continuing Education of Women at Miami-Dade Community College. She grasps every opportunity to work for women's advancement through education, communication, networking, and international exchanges.

Ivette Arteaga Morgan—is currently the assistant principal of the Miami Palmetto Adult Education Center, and has served as an elementary teacher, social worker, school administrator, and university faculty member. Dr. Morgan has provided leadership for bilingual and multicultural education programs, was a cofounder of ASPIRA, and has volunteered her time to many programs that encourage women's political participation.

Janice O'Rourke—as a leader in educational and women's organizations, this banking executive has lent her talents and energies to many causes such as the Miami Branch of the American Association of University Women and other organizations that focus on women's education and empowerment.

Deborah Reyes—serves as the president of Capital American Mortgage Co. and consulting and training group. She is committed to serving her home community through her church, the Girl Scouts Council of Tropical Florida, the Community Coalition for Women's History, and the National Board of the Girl Scouts of the USA.

Being honored posthumously are:

Meg O'Brien—was a woman of courage and determination who became the founder of the WLRN Radio Reading Service, which provides print-handicapped persons with 24 hours of news, literature, and general information. She shared her love for literature through the radio program "Cover to Cover," through the annual writer's conference in the Florida Panhandle, and through "The Late Show," a bedtime story initiative for detainees at Youth Hall.

Belen Saborido—immigrated to the United States and became a successful businesswoman and community leader, launching her own business in 1981. She worked tirelessly to support education, women's concerns, service to families and children, health care, and the arts.

NATIONAL DIABETES DAY

HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, today is National Diabetes Day. Diabetes is a life-threatening, chronic disease, and a major public health issue that affects 16 million Americans directly and the rest of the population indirectly through its impact on medical care and costs.

Since the 1960's the prevalence of diabetes has tripled and it is reaching epidemic proportions. The National Institutes of Health estimates that about 1,800 new cases are diagnosed each day. Diabetes is by far the most widespread disease in our country today. In 1992 alone, cost of care for diabetes totaled \$92 billion.

The skyrocketing rise in diabetes is linked to four very important factors. First, an aging population. The aging of the baby boomer

population will ultimately increase that number even higher. Second, is the increasing degree of obesity. Third, is the fact that the population is living in a more sedentary lifestyle, and fourth is the fact that improved diagnosis techniques have isolated cases at earlier stages.

Those at risk for diabetes generally exhibit four different characteristics: they are over 45 years old, more than 120 percent above their ideal body weight, physically inactive, or have an immediate family member diagnosed with diabetes.

The toll of diabetes in death and human suffering is very great. Physicians are very critical to public education efforts. Physicians need to be more aware and sensitive to the fact that diabetes is a very serious disease. Many people are unaware they have the disease until they seek treatment for one of its crippling conditions. Some of these conditions include: stroke, blindness, heart disease, or even kidney disease.

Diabetes is the leading cause of blindness among those 20 to 74 years old. Also, as many as 20 percent of diabetics develop kidney disease. And diabetics are two to four times more likely to develop heart disease and strokes.

Diabetes is currently the fourth leading cause of death by disease. Moreover, about 169,000 Americans die each year from the disease—more than the number of people who die from AIDS or breast cancer.

We must realize that diabetes requires a lifetime of medical care and self-treatment. A person with diabetes must have access to supplies, equipment, and education. With these resources made available, a person with diabetes can greatly reduce any complications that cause any suffering associated with the disease.

Health care must be made a priority for people with diabetes. People with diabetes have great difficulty acquiring affordable health insurance that is needed to obtain medical care. Medicare and Medicaid, the Federal Government's two largest health care programs, do not provide coverage of supplies and medication necessary to avoid complications related to diabetes.

According to the American Diabetes Association, diabetes research is proven to save money. Studies taken show that for every dollar spent on medical research, \$13 is saved in health care costs. The majority of diabetes research is supported by the National Institutes of Health. Ironically, of the more than \$12 billion spent by the U.S. Government on medical research, only 3 percent is used to fund diabetes research. There must be a greater amount of support for medical research programs and also increased funding for diabetes research.

In regard to health care issues, we must have widespread support for legislation and efforts in the private sector that will ensure greater access to health care for people with diabetes.

I have recently become a cosponsor of two bills sponsored by Representative FURSE (H.R. 1073 and H.R. 1074) that seek to expand Medicare coverage of outpatient self-management training and access to blood testing strips. I have also signed on to a letter supporting the National Institutes of Health as a priority when considering a balanced budget.

We, Representatives in Congress, have the opportunity to improve the lives of millions of Americans with diabetes who rely on Medicare

for their health insurance. I look forward to working with the other Members of Congress, now and in the future, to improve the lives of people with diabetes.

TRIBUTE TO FRANKLIN MEISSNER

HON. JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. KENNEDY of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to an outstanding individual, Mr. Franklin Meissner, of Weymouth, MA. Today, Mr. Meissner, the outgoing chairman of the board of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, will be honored for his exceptional work. During his tenure, the South Shore Chamber had its most successful financial year and is now the second largest chamber of commerce in New England. As the 1995 chairman, Mr. Meissner made significant improvements to the administration of the chamber by reorganizing the Economic Development Organization and upgrading the communications and computer operations. He also instituted the "Elder-Preneur" of the year award, honoring older people who continue to contribute to society.

In addition to efforts at the chamber, Mr. Meissner has been very active in serving his neighbors and community. To list just a few of his civic service activities: he is a member of the Weymouth Rotary Club; is director of the South Shore Hospital, Health and Educational Foundation; and is director of the Bank of Braintree. Mr. Meissner is also a successful businessman, as president of Electro Switch Corp., he employs over 500 people in Massachusetts and North Carolina. What has been very evident in all of Mr. Meissner's activities is strong dedication and a commitment to success.

Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honor and a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to recognize this outstanding individual. I am sure I speak on behalf of many members of the community who have worked with Mr. Meissner when I offer my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes on this special day.

163D ANNIVERSARY OF THE TREATY OF AMITY AND COMMERCE BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND THAILAND

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 26, 1996

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 163d anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Commerce between the United States and the kingdom of Thailand. This treaty, signed in 1833, is unique in that it is the first treaty of its kind between the United States and an Asian nation. It is a symbol of our enduring friendship and high respect for the Thai people.

For many years, the United States has had a close political and personal relationship with the people and the Government of Thailand. The Thais stood shoulder to shoulder with us in our long and principled battle against communism in Southeast Asia. Today, they continue as our ally in the war against illicit drugs.